

# THE DEMOCRAT.

R. N. HOOD, Editor.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14, 1880.

From the Knoxville Chronicle we see that a Republican Congressional Convention, for the Second District, is called, to meet at Knoxville on the 24th of next June, for the purpose of nominating a candidate for Congress. The basis of representation is fixed at one vote for every 200 or fraction thereof of the Republican vote cast in the last Sheriff's election in the several counties.

The Society of Friends deserve great credit for the way they are managing their school. They have five professors, and elegant school rooms with accommodations of all kinds, for students from a distance. The tuition is cheap, and the board is almost nothing. Everything is taught that can be taught at the College, and the school has the advantage over the College of not being "mixed."

The Index intimates that it is strange that the County Court should have misunderstood us, when we advised it that in our opinion the county could not succeed in repudiating the debt. The County Court did not misunderstand us. The members, each and every one, will bear us out in saying that we have always expressed but one opinion on the subject, and that was that we would have the debt to pay.

Since our last week's issue we have met and conversed with several prominent Democrats from the country, and without any exception they all declared themselves in favor of Tilden as the Democratic candidate for President. The people are for Tilden, but the politicians seem to be against him, as they were in 1876. The people were strong enough then to make themselves heard in the Convention, and they will be again.

We see that our Republican friends Blount held a large and enthusiastic meeting, recently, and endorsed

us. We have understood that some people who had aspirations for office, such as Census Supervisor, were very much opposed to Houk, and that they threatened that he should not be endorsed in Blount. These parties seem to have lost their grip, and Houk still goes marching on.

The Index is pleased to accuse us of belonging to the Kearney school of politics and the Ingersoll school of theology, and says we have abused Dr. B. and others, including the Faculty of Maryville College, editorially.

We belong to the school of politics known as Hard-Money, Free-Trade and Home Rule Democracy; and we have been taught and educated to believe in the Presbyterian Confession of Faith, and no other.

We do not make war on the clergy, as a class. It is only the bad ones that we say can lie or sneak out of a mean thing, when they are caught. This is the course they have pursued in some transactions we have had the misfortune to have with some of them, as we are abundantly able to prove.

We have not said one word, editorially, about the Faculty of Maryville College. We regard them all as high-toned gentlemen, with one exception, and we can prove to the satisfaction of the editor of the Index even, that we have good grounds for our opinion of this one.

We do not, for a moment, suppose that the editor of the Index is anything but a gentleman of the high-toned kind—if he is a preacher.

Whenever a preacher does a mean thing, which happens sometimes, and it is brought home to him, and he is charged with it, the accuser is invariably branded, by the guilty party, as a Kearneyite, or a follower of Ingersoll, or a disbeliever in the Bible. They muddy the water in this way, so as to bring down the curses and the anathemas of the faithful on the head of any one who is so presumptuous as to insinuate that they are not entirely Holy.

We want it understood that we do not hesitate to say when a man does a mean thing, if he is a preacher, or even a D. D.

The Index need not apply our re-

marks about ministers generally to itself, or its editor, for we do not allude to good people, but to those who do wrong.

## Repudiation.

Some weeks ago we charged that the Republican party of Blount county was responsible for the repudiation of our county debt. We did this because a few would-be leaders and great men of the party, who assume to be "Christian statesmen," claim that all the honesty in the State is centered in the Republican party, and that the Democratic party is a unit for repudiation, while the Republicans are solid for paying all debts, county and State.

Will A. McTeer appeared in the Index, in an article in which he charged that the Democratic party was responsible for the repudiation of the county debt, although he shows that there are twenty Republicans to ten Democrats in the Court, a two-thirds majority. McTeer shows that ten Republicans voted for repudiating the debt and seven Democrats voted the same way—and hence the Democratic party is responsible for this action of the Court.

Our respected and religious neighbor, the Index, accuses us of resorting to "a mere quibble after the manner of a third-rate lawyer," when we show that the Republicans are in the majority in the Court, and hence are responsible without reference to how the Democrats voted. Now, we do not wish to resort to the "mere quibble of a third-rate lawyer" or a tenth-rate preacher in this matter. The people of Blount county placed the Republicans in power in the County Court, because they thought that they would protect their interests. The election was purely a party matter, and the Republicans cannot avoid the responsibility thus placed upon them, however the minority (the Democrats) may vote. No, brother Silsby, we want no quibbles. Come out, like a man, and say your party could have prevented the repudiation of the debt if it had wanted to, and had been what you call honest.

If the reasoning of the Index is the correct thing, we might, with the same propriety, charge the Republican

party with repudiating a debt from this county. It is well known that the Republicans have a safe majority of from three hundred in this county, and a Democrat cannot be elected to any position, unless he is assisted by Republicans. Republicans voted for Brickell and elected him, and hence, according to Mr. McTeer's and the Index's manner of reasoning, the Republican party is responsible for his election and his acts—repudiation and all.

We voted for Brickell, and so did the Democrats of the county, and a large number of Republicans. But we do not want to resort to the quibble of a tenth-rate preacher and saddle the responsibility for his acts on the Republican party, because he was elected by Republican votes. He was the Democratic candidate and was elected, hence that party is responsible for his acts.

Judge Houk and Dr. Lyle were billed to appear at Dandridge on Monday last. The County Convention also met on that day. Five counties have already declared for Judge Houk—Blount, Anderson, Roane, Loudon and Sevier.

## The Census.

Knoxville Chronicle: The following table furnished us by Mr. J. A. Newton, Supervisor of the census for the first district of Tennessee, shows the number of enumerators to be appointed in the various counties: Roane, 10; Loudon, 8; Monroe, 12; Blount, 11; Sevier, 12; Knox, 25; Anderson, 8; Campbell, 9; Scott, 4; Union, 7; Jefferson, 10; Claiborne, 3; Hancock, 6; Hawkins, 13; Grainger, 9; Hamblen, 6; Cocke, 11; Unicoi, 4; Greene, 15; Washington, 11; Carter, 9; Sullivan, 15; Morgan and Johnson, not yet appointed.

Knoxville Tribune: Census Supervisor Newton has received nearly one thousand applications for appointment as enumerators in this district. This Supervisor's district embraces the first and second Congressional districts, to complete the census of which, within the time specified, about two hundred and forty enumerators will be required. Of this number about 116 will operate in the first and 124 in the second Congressional districts. Enumeration districts are to be so regulated as to make the average population of districts from 1,300 to 1,500, in order to equalize as nearly as possible the work of enumerators. Supervisor Newton states that the work is to be commenced on the first Monday in June and shall be completed within twenty-one days, exclusive of Sundays.

## An Apology for the People.

EDITORS DEMOCRAT:

It seems to me that the Democrat, and the Index and its correspondent, as well, without doubtless so intending, are doing the people of the county of Blount, or their agents, the members of the County Court, injustice, when they directly or by implication charge the people or their agents, the Court, with being guilty of repudiation in failing to assess, and in opposing the assessment of, a tax to pay the interest on the bonds issued to the Knoxville and Charleston Railroad Company. And it appears to me that the term repudiation is used rather flippantly than wisely and appropriately, when speaking of the action of our County Court in not assessing the tax. The word repudiate, in the connection in which it has been used, means to fraudulently discard, to refuse to pay a debt. A debt means a just obligation; or, if you please, an obligation the performance or payment of which can be enforced by law. What has the County Court of Blount county done? The action of the Court in refusing to levy a tax, and the conduct of a very large part, if not a majority, of the people of the county in their sympathy with the Court, is in no sense repudiation, under the circumstances and in view of the facts attendant upon the creation of our alleged bonded debt. There is not an intelligent man in Blount county, or elsewhere for that matter, who is at all conversant with the manner in which the bonds of the county were issued and disposed of, but knows that the people of the county were grossly defrauded, and if the bonds must be paid, that the people, the tax-payers, will (so far as their agency in the matter is concerned) be burdened with an unjust and grievous tax, one that will be an incubus upon their thrift for years and years. Upon that point there is not a dissenting voice. Whether, however, this fraud and injustice in the issuance of the bonds, has so attached itself to the bonds themselves, in the hands of all persons, as to make them of no legal obligation upon the county, is another question, but one also upon which the people and the lawyers are agreed. If the bonds are of no legal obligation, or legal dishonor, to pay them; to do so is repudiation. To test the validity of the County Court giving expressio, to public sentiment, refused to assess a tax to pay the interest on the bonds, thereby throwing down the gauntlet of legal battle to the holders of the bonds. The challenge was accepted by some of them, acting in the interest of all, and suits have been instituted and are now pending in the State and Federal Courts to determine the question of the rights and obligations of the county in reference to her bonds. When the judgment of the law has been made known in the premises, if it is declared by the courts, that, notwithstanding the fraud practiced upon the people of the county in the creation of the debt, and from other elements and considerations subsequently arising, the bonds are a legal obligation upon the county and must be paid, then our County Court and our people, both Democrats and Republicans, will say, the majesty of the law must be sustained and its orders and decrees must be executed. They will say, that it is the law which protects us as a community and as individuals in our rights, and its judgments and decrees, though seemingly hard in our case, must not only be respected but cheerfully obeyed, and that there must and will be no attempt at repudiation.

The people of the county of Blount, or the members of the County Court, will never repudiate an honest and just debt, or a debt which was unjust in its creation, but which by reason of other and subsequent considerations has, by the judgment of the Courts, become a legal obligation. Yet they have a right to test these questions in the courts, and in doing so, we protest against applying to them the rather odious title of REPUDIATORS. This is all that the County Court and the people have done, and if the courts decide against the county in the present litigation, onerous as the burden will be upon the people, I dare say that, like true men, they will try to meet their legal obligations, though, in so doing, they deprive themselves and their children of the luxuries, and it may be of some of the necessities, of life, enjoyed in profusion by their creditors.

So, in the future, when we speak of our County Court and its action on the bond question, let us drop the words repudiation and repudiator from the vocabulary.

C. T. CATES.

## Tennessee Medical Society.

The annual session of the Tennessee Medical Society convened in Kerna Hall, Knoxville, at noon on the 6th inst. Dr. E. M. Wight, of Chattanooga, President of the Society, presided. Dr. J. H. Carriger, President of the Knoxville Medical Society, delivered the address of welcome. In the afternoon President Wight delivered an interesting annual address. A committee was appointed to memorialize the Legislature, asking for the passage of a bill to regulate the practice of the profession in this State. At the suggestion of the Permanent Secretary the by-laws of the Society were so amended that unpaid dues were remitted for years previous to 1880, and delinquents after the present year shall forfeit their membership in the Society. The names of about 20 physicians were enrolled as members of the Society during the day. Nashville was selected as the place for holding the next annual meeting.

Among the second day's proceedings was the election of officers for the ensuing year, the following officers being elected: President, Dr. E. B. Lenoir; Vice President for East Tennessee, Dr. M. M. Alexander; V. P. for Middle Tennessee, Dr. W. M. Clark; V. P. for West Tennessee, Dr. T. J. Tyner; Corresponding Secretary, Dr. Frank A. Ramsey; Recording Secretary, Dr. Ambrose Morrison; Treasurer, Dr. J. D. Plunket. The office of permanent Secretary was passed over in order to retain the valuable services of Dr. J. B. Lindsley.

The third day was occupied principally in hearing essays delivered by different members on various subjects. Dr. Fordyce Grinnell, of Maryville, delivered an essay on "Iodine as a substitute for quinine." Delegates were appointed to the session of the American Medical Association, which convenes in New York, on the first Tuesday in June next. A Board of Censors and standing committees were appointed. During the day Dr. A. B. Tadlock exhibited an obstetrical instrument, the invention of Dr. John Blankinship, of Maryville.

The Society adjourned on the 8th inst., to meet in Nashville on the first Tuesday in April, 1881.

The State Board of Health was also in session during the session of the Medical Society.

The California House of Representatives recently passed a bill to allow women to vote on all questions affecting the public school system.

The Democracy of Sullivan county have been called to meet at Blountville on the first Monday of May, to appoint delegates to the State Convention at Nashville, June 8.

Col. E. W. Cole now proposes to build a Railroad from Jackson, Tenn., via Nashville, to the Cincinnati Southern about the mouth of Obey river, and connect with Knoxville via the Emory Gap line.

At Atlanta, Ga., and Louisville, Ky., on the 8th inst., Republican Conventions were in session, and both culminated in big rows and general fist-cuff fights. The "party of great moral ideas" is "on its ear" in those States.

Newport Sentinel: At this writing the snow is falling thick and fast and the surrounding mountains are literally white. That a very valuable silver mine has lately been discovered near Whitwell, in this county, by F. G. Wagner, may be set down for a fact. We have in our office specimens of the ore which have every appearance of lead and silver.

SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO, April 10.—Information received at military headquarters states that General Hatch, with part of his command, attacked three hundred Indians who were encamped in San Andreas mountains. The fight lasted six hours, when the Indians retreated, leaving their dead behind. Captain Henry Carroll, of the 9th cavalry, and seven soldiers were wounded.

At the military barracks, West Point, recently, a colored cadet named Whittaker was found in his room bound securely and a piece of his ear cut off, and his body otherwise bruised. He claims that masked men entered his room at night and assailed him. The case is now undergoing an investigation. Some persons think that Whittaker committed the acts himself, while others believe his side of the story.

New York Times: The citizens of Nashville, Tenn., are making extensive preparations for the celebration of the Centennial anniversary of that city, which occurs on the 24th inst. The celebration will be continued from that date, in various forms, until the first of June. Gen. John F. Wheeler, Chairman of the Military Committee, has sent invitations to the military organizations of this city to be represented by at least one company, and several of the crack companies of infantry will probably go.

The New York Tribune says: "The disgraceful story of the failure of the Freedmen's Savings bank is recounted anew in the report of Senator Bruce's committee, with an additional chapter, which is of a piece with all the rest. Since the institution went into liquidation, \$50,000 has been paid as salaries to the commissioners appointed by the Government to wind up its affairs, \$70,000 to agents, and \$31,000 to attorneys, all of which has been taken out of the funds due the poor depositors. The report revives unpleasant memories of a recent regime at Washington of which this Freedmen's bank swindle was but a circumstance among many."

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